

Dear Jim, add 2, Post & Oswald tapping; the risen Specter

11/21/76

I monitored all-news radio from about 4:45 to ~~5:10~~ ^{after 6:10} a.m. It was productive.

It leads to other conjectures about what may be up, too.

About 5:35 WAVA had a long segment that included a quotation of what Phillips said yesterday, what would have been fit for evening TV use and certainly was in time for its "Soviets and Cubans did not think very much of Lee Harvey Oswald so they didn't push him into killing JFK" is attributed to Phillips. Shades of Rosenko!

There was self-defamation by Downing: this was all news to him and it is coming out because of FOIA. There sure do need some informed people on the staff or at least some who read newspapers and have memories. And the FOIA waders will never cease, as the uses of it on this subject by newspapers won't. While Bud works his own waders.

At 6:10 the NEC Baltimore all-news WBAL FM had a long segment from Philadelphia. It is Specter denied any pressure to reach a pre-determined conclusion of to "name" LHO. "I took my lead from" Warren. He then extolled Warren. He added that there have been "no disclosures" to challenge any of the Commission's conclusions or that would change anything. They he qualified this a little, a la Belin. They knew nothing of the plots against Castro's life or of the destruction of the LHO note by Hosty.

How could anyone have known about the Hosty destructions? After all he only swore to them. (No, Specter did not question him before the Commission-Stern did -4H44Off. And only Maria and Ruth Paine testified to LHO's having delivered the note.)

I wish I knew more about yesterday's developments. There may have been much that did not get electronic coverage within my hearing. But based on what I know there was a fairly immediately and very sudden, out-of-character switch. I believe it has to have significance and to represent officialdom.

I have enough of Phillips' cables from Mexico City to know that what he is now saying could not be more completely opposite what he was battering against the Washington heads. He was so excessive that Langley had to direct him to break Alvarado Ugarte down and even how to do it. This Alvarado Ugarte remains on "D" to CIA and Schweiker.

Until yesterday the CIA was insisting that Rosenko's word could not be taken and wasn't. Now they are saying exactly what Rosenko did about Oswald.

WAVA did not have Phillips on tape. The ambiguity may be from the wire service. It has Oswald the killer and falls short of exculpating the Russians. However, it will be taken as exculpating them. Why this abrupt change in the midst of all these stories about the CIA's responsibility because it was trying to off Castro and he kicked back? Blaming this on JFK will not be enough to clear it. They have to have another inspiration in mind. Now I do not think they'll depend on the lone-rat approach. At least not for long. I think it not impossible that there will be an amending, to make LHO the killer but with a conspiracy. Shudder over the possible co-conspirators.

Suggestions, conjectures welcome. Now I'll see if the paper is here.

Our local a.m. had nothing, indicating nothing on AP B wire.

The Post head and story say the committee will question Phillips. Not anyone now in CIA or those in charge of liaison with Warren Commission. If this was bait it has been taken. In this event there will likely be CIA memos on verbal communications or those who have "recollections" that some staffer was told. The nature of staff memos makes this possible and the CIA has thousands. I've gotten some from it I did not get from the Archives.

Kessler still ^{has} not reported that Phillips was station chief or what he reported. Or whether the FBI's LEGAT there was privy, as the CIA cables show he was to much. I'd like to have time to reread them. Nor does the Post carry the opinion that the Russians were not pushing Oswald, whatever that means.

Meanwhile the committee is off and running with the hounds on the false spoor, exactly what I warned them all about, including Sprague personally and Downing through Bud & Rick. Surprising Ho has had no interest.